

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 11945 161516Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 SWF-02 DODE-00 PA-04

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PASS LABOR (MR. SEGALL) AND DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, UK

SUBJECT: CHAVEZ COMING TO LONDON TO REVIVE SUPPORT
FOR GRAPE BOYCOTT

REF: LONDON 7919

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CAESAR CHAVEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
FARMWORKERS OF AMERICA, WILL BE IN LONDON THIS WEEK, IN
ORDER TO STIMULATE RENEWED SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
BOYCOTT OF US GRAPES. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAVEZ, ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER UFW REPRESENTATIVES, IS
EXPECTED TO MEET INTER ALIA WITH LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL
SECRETARY; JACK JONES, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TRANS-
PORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (TGWU); AND WITH THE
PORTERS OF THE LONDON COVENT GARDEN MARKETS. AN ARTICLE
IN THE SEPTEMBER 15 ISSUE OF THE SUNDAY TIMES BY VICENT
HANNA OBSERVES THAT CHAVEZ' VISIT IS DESIGNED TO BOLSTER
UP A CAMPAIGN TO "SAVE HIS UNION AND HIS CRUSADE" WHICH
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PAGE 02 LONDON 11945 161516Z

IS "LOSING MOMENTUM."

3. THE ARTICLE QUOTES CHAVEZ AS DECLARING, "OUR BOYCOTT IN AMERICA IS HITTING THE GROWERS HARD, AND THEY ARE EXPORTING MORE TO OFFSET THEIR LOSSES." IT ALSO NOTES THAT THE RECENT THREAT OF DOCK-CLOSURES FROM SHIPOWNERS AND THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITIES CAUSED DOCKERS AT LONDON'S WEST INDIA PIERS TO CALL OFF THEIR UNION'S BAN (REFTEL).

4. THE UFW LEADER WILL THUS TRY TO REVIVE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE GRAPE WORKERS, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE AUTUMN SHIPMENT OF GRAPES TO THE UK. IT IS EXPECTED THAT HIS VISIT WILL BE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED (HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TELEVISION CAMERAMEN) AND THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SOME SHORT-TERM RESPONSE BY TRADE UNIONISTS TO HELP CHAVEZ. HOWEVER, TGWU NATIONAL OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR LONDON DOCKS, TIM O'LEARY, TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT WHILE HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE VERY "SYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE FARMWORKERS IN THE US" THEY STILL "CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE STUFF (GRAPES) GETS OUT OF THE US." HE ADDED THAT EVEN WHEN THE LONDON DOCKERS BOYCOTT THE US PRODUCE, IT "FINDS ITS WAY BACK TO ENGLAND WITHIN 24 HOURS OR LESS." O'LEARY IS ALSO SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT IF THE BOYCOTT IS REVIVED BY LONDON DOCKERS OF THE SHOPOWNERS AND THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITIES TO "TAKE 15 SHIPS OR SO OUT OF THE LONDON DOCKS." HE ADDED THAT THE LONDON PORT WAS EXPERIENCING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, IN ANY CASE, IN REMAINING A "VIABLE PORT."

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